

DRAFT

**Somers Board of Education Meeting
Board of Education Meeting Room
February 10, 2020
7:00 PM**

Attendance Taken at 6:59 PM:

Present Board Members: Krista Cherry, Sarah Bollinger, Marissa Marks, David Palmer (arrived at 7:27), Bruce Devlin, Jan Martin, Jeremy Anderson, Anne Kirkpatrick

Absent Board Member: Kate McLellan

Others: Bill Boutwell, Ken McCarthy, JoAnn St.Germain, Sara St.Germain, Margot Martello, Tom Forma, Kim Mailhot, Kyle Mailhot, Jillian Mailhot, Paul Mailhot, Bernadette Michelson, Sophia Carengo, Carlos Mezger, Chloe Albano, Gary Cotzin

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Chairman Devlin at 7:00 p.m. in the Mabelle B. Avery Board of Education meeting room.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

3.1. Somers High School students will be recognized as winners of the 2020-21 Budget Book Graphics Project.

Rationale: Recognition of Jillian Mailhot and Chloe Albano, Somers High School students, as winners of the 2020-21 Budget Book Graphic Project.

Discussion: The Board of Education congratulated Jillian Mailhot and Chloe Albano for their designs of this year's budget book. Superintendent Czaplak engaged the graphic design class in a real-world project to develop a multipage budget book design. The students interviewed the superintendent while he questioned their rationale, concept, and design intention as thirty of them presented their projects to their "client." Usually there is one winner; however, this year, these two students had outstanding designs. The BOE presented each of them with a gift.

4. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

4.1. Superintendent Advisory Group:

Discussion: Sophia Carengo, SHS student, updated the BOE on SHS events. The Yearbook Team and Drama Club are meeting on weekends. The basketball team has a game on the 11th against Coventry. They are 14-3, 2nd in Division 5, 2nd in the conference, 7th in area ranking. Boys indoor track co-op with Ellington won NCCC

about two weeks ago. Sophomores took NWEA testing last week. NHS members are preparing to go to SES on March 2 for the annual Read Across America Day. March Madness is coming up so the school is planning for the pep rally and Spirit Week. Seniors are getting accepted to colleges and ordered their caps and gowns for graduation. They are planning a pasta dinner for late March which is a fundraiser for Safe-Grad. A date has been the set for the Senior Outing which is attending a Red Sox game.

4.2. MBA Technology Presentation

Rationale: Ken McCarthy, physical education teacher, and Carlos Mezger, Spanish teacher, will illustrate how they use technology in their classes.

Discussion: Ken McCarthy showed how the heart rate monitors, obtained through a grant, work in his classes. The monitors show each student's fitness growth and challenge students to improve their physical health by sending a summary report to both student and parent as soon as each class is over. Board members felt that these monitors would benefit SES and SHS also. Carlos Mezger, along with one of his students, Sara St.Germain, illustrated how the app Showbie is used in his Spanish classes.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5.1. Draft of Board of Education January 27, 2020 Meeting

Rationale: The Board will review and approve the January 27, 2020 Board of Education Meeting Minutes.

Motion Passed: Motion to approve the draft minutes from the January 27, 2020 BOE meeting passed with a motion by Sarah Bollinger and a second by Krista Cherry. **8 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

***A motion was made by Jan Martin and seconded by Bruce Devlin to move up 11.1.**

Motion passed: 8 Yeas - 0 Nays.

6. AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

7. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

8. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion Passed: Motion to approve the Consent Agenda passed with a motion by David Palmer and a second by Jeremy Anderson. **8 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

8.1. Warrant of February 10, 2020

Rationale: The Board will review and consent to the February 10, 2020 warrant in the amount of \$366,398.76.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1. 1st Warning of 2020-2021 School Calendar

Rationale: The Board will review the 2020-2021 SPS School Calendar for approval at the next Board meeting.

10. OLD BUSINESS

10.1. Revised CIP 2020-2024 Plan for BOE Approval

Rationale: The Board will review and approve the revised CIP 2020-2024 Plan.

Motion Passed: Motion to approve the revised CIP 2020-2024 Plan passed with a motion by David Palmer and a second by Anne Kirkpatrick. **8 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

10.2. Second Warning for Somers High School AP and Honors Art Overnight Field Trip to New York City

Rationale: Somers High School's Art Department will be taking their AP and Honors Art students to an overnight field trip to New York City.

Motion Passed: Motion to approve the SHS Art Department overnight trip to New York City passed with a motion by Jan Martin and a second by Anne Kirkpatrick. **8 Yeas - 0 Nays.**

11. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

11.1. Pension Update (Forma Group)

Rationale: Annual Pension Update

Discussion: The annual pension plan update was provided by Tom Forma and reviewed by the BOE.

11.2. Somers High School's Improvement Plan

Rationale: Gary Cotzin, principal of SHS, will present the SHS improvement plan.

Discussion: Mr. Cotzin talked about the goal to raise SAT and AP scores. For the equity and equality goal, many initiatives have been introduced. There have been monthly celebrations of diversity: Native American history, African-American history, Spanish history, for example. Sandy Hook Promise initiatives include "Say Something"—responding to posts seen on social media, "Start with Hello"—creating a more inclusive and connected culture, and SOS (signs of suicide)—training to look for signs of depression and suicide. Courageous Conversations (circle groups with students and teachers) are taking place as well. Cheryl Gustafson, assistant principal, is working on the chronic absenteeism goal.

11.3. PSAT, SAT, and AP Report

Rationale: Gary Cotzin, principal of SHS, will present the PSAT, SAT, and AP report.

Discussion: Gary Cotzin presented the PSAT, SAT, and AP report as attached. Mr. Cotzin noted that the PSAT is administered to all of our students in grades 9-11. Other schools in our DRG do not require all students to take the PSAT which skews their results when compared to ours.

11.4. Superintendent's Proposed 2020-21 Budget Discussions

Rationale: The superintendent will answer questions from the Board regarding the proposed 2020-21 budget.

Discussion: Answers to BOE questions were provided.

12. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE

Discussion: No update.

13. COMMITTEE REPORTS

13.1. CURRICULUM

Discussion: No report.

13.2. POLICY

Discussion: The Policy Committee met today. Five policies will be warned at the next BOE meeting.

13.3. SALARY & NEGOTIATION

Discussion: No report.

13.4. PLANNING

Discussion: No report.

14. CREC UPDATE

Discussion: No report.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Motion Passed: Motion to adjourn the BOE meeting at 8:32 p.m. passed with a motion by Jan Martin and a second by Jeremy Anderson. **8 Yeas - 0 Nays.**